

*Will Consider Decision on Substance, Not Gamesmanship*

**WASHINGTON** -U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today released the following statement registering his concern of irregular tactics in the House of Representatives to advance the health care reform bill.

"Today we were presented a vote to ensure health care legislation brought to the floor is done so in regular order. Regrettably, that effort was defeated. As a former government teacher and lifelong student of government, I have always believed in fair play and regular order in the House of Representatives. Critical decisions on health care reform must remain a debate on substance, not gamesmanship. Congress must do better to ensure that remains the goal.

"While I object to using irregular parliamentary tactics on such a historic issue, I also recognize the gravity the legislative process commands and will cast my vote based on substance and merit. I fully recognize the need for reform. Rising health care costs continue to burden Arizona families, hurt the economy and slow our recovery."

Mitchell voted to block a procedural motion which will allow the House to move forward with reported plans to subvert the process of 'regular order' in considering legislation on the House floor. [Source: [The Washington Post](#) , March 18, 2010]

Despite Mitchell's objections, the measure passed 222-203. [ [Roll Call No. 129](#) ]